

Iowa Law Enforcement Academy



Joint Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee

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**E.A. "Penny" Westfall
Director**

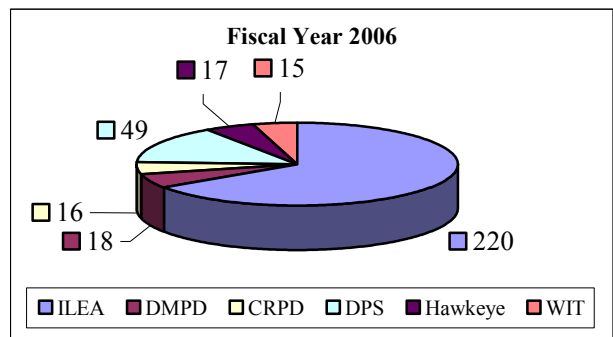
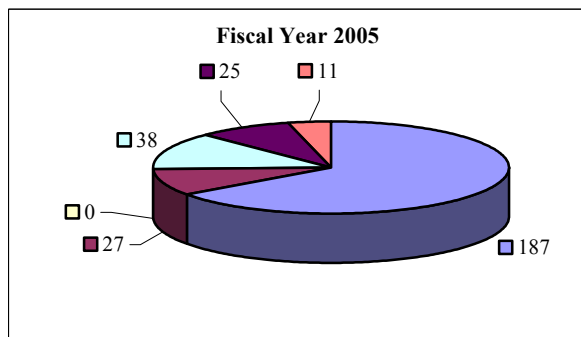
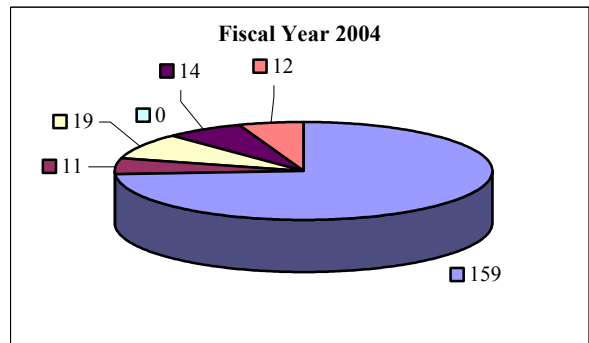
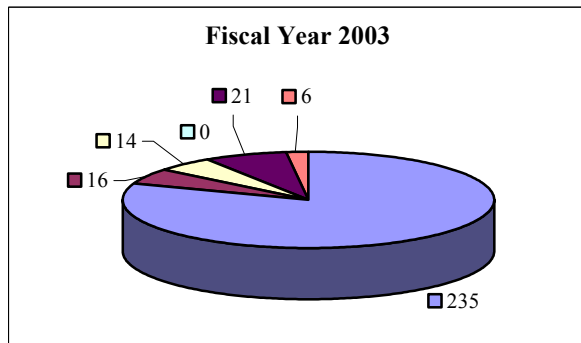
The Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) plays a vital role in the two areas of education and keeping our communities safe.

The Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) was created by an act of the Iowa legislature in 1967 with its purpose being to upgrade law enforcement to professional status. The specific goals were to maximize training opportunities for law enforcement officers to coordinate training and to set standards for the law enforcement services. The Academy establishes minimum standards for Iowa law enforcement and grants officer's certification. The Academy has the responsibility to decertify or to suspend officer's certification when necessary. In a manner, the Academy "polices the police".

The Academy provides residential training sessions varying in length from the 13-week basic training schools to one-day specialty and in-service seminars. The Academy can provide housing for 112 persons at any one time. The physical facility consists of dormitory rooms, classrooms, a cafeteria providing meals three times a day, physical fitness center, photography and video production studio and administrative offices.

The Academy is located on Camp Dodge in Johnston Iowa. ILEA shares firearm ranges and tactical facilities with the Iowa National Guard.

The Academy trains by far the majority of peace officers in Iowa as seen in the charts below. The safety of Iowans depends primarily upon the city police and deputy sheriffs. There are approximately 6000 certified peace officers in Iowa at any one time. The majority of these officers have been trained at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. Well-trained officers equal safety communities.



The ILEA, in addition to maximizing training opportunities for all Iowa's peace officers, is responsible for providing basic and in-service training for all county and city jailers and Iowa telecommunication specialists. ILEA also establish standards and training requirements for the reserve peace officers in Iowa.

The Academy administers a program of psychological and standards testing. The Academy maintains and updates training files on approximately 6,000 active full and part-time peace officers in the state. The Academy maintains and updates required files on all reserve peace officers in the state.

The Academy oversees and approves the training provided at the recognized regional training facilities across Iowa (Cedar Rapids Police Department, Department of Public Safety, Des Moines Police Department, Hawkeye Community Technical College, and Western Iowa Technical Community College).

The over 600 law enforcement agencies in Iowa rely on the Academy not only for training but also for leadership, advice and research. The Academy instructors serve as expert witnesses for grand jury proceedings and civil cases in lawsuits filed against agencies and individual officers.

Values, Vision, Mission and Goals

Values, vision and mission for the Academy were developed in 2002. The goals followed shortly after the development of the values, vision and mission.

The values of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy are Service, Teamwork, Excellence, Ethics, and Professionalism (STEEP). The ILEA vision is "Excellence in Training – Training the Best Peace Officers, Jailers and Telecommunication Specialists in the Nation". The mission is "Professionalism through Training".

The ILEA goals are to: (1) provide essential, timely and cost-effective law enforcement, jailer, and telecommunication specialists training at both the entry and in-service levels; and (2) Maintain and enforce reasonable standards for the law enforcement service that are critically necessary for the protection of the public that is served.

College Credit

The Iowa Law Enforcement Academy has articulation agreements with several higher education institutions. These institutions award college credit to officers who have successfully completed the thirteen-week basic training program. These programs and hours given are:

Bellevue College	15 semester credit hours
Des Moines Area Community College	13 credit hours
Hamilton College	20 credit hours
Iowa Western Community College	14 credit hours
Iowa Lakes Community College	25 credit hours
North Iowa Community College	15 credit hours
Upper Iowa University	
William Penn	

Other higher education programs will review the academy training and hours and award credit based upon the student's request.

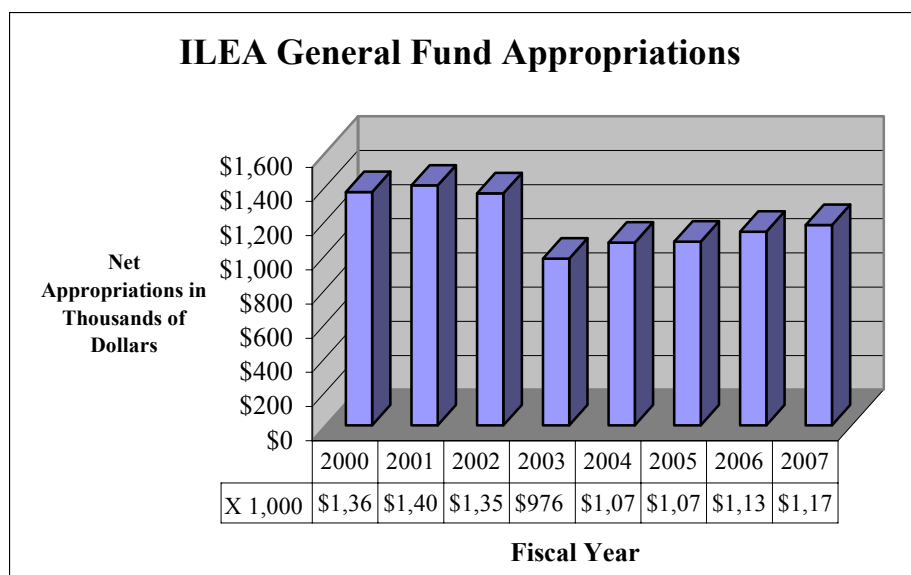
ILEA Facilities

The administration part of the ILEA facility was built in the late 1960's. The classrooms and dormitory area was added on in the early 1970's. There is a grave need to review the facility needs of the Academy. All the Iowa law enforcement associations signed resolutions in late 2006 requesting the Governor's Office and legislature to appropriate monies to study the needs of the Academy to upgrade, expand, or be part of a joint training facility with the fire service. This joint facility could also be shared by the Des Moines Police Department and Iowa Department of Public Safety regional training academies. This might well create joint funding from city, county and state for such a facility. It is the plan of the ILEA Law Enforcement Advisory Group to obtain this funding in fiscal year 2008.

ILEA Funding

ILEA funding has been a problem for many years. The Academy was fully funded when it was first created in the late 1960's. A surcharge was added on criminal citations that were to come to the Academy to cover all necessary costs. The cities and counties did not pay any costs at that time. None of the surcharge was ever given to the Academy.

As time went by the law was changed requiring that cities and counties pay 50% of the costs of the basic training. Approximately four years ago the Academy's funding was cut by 30%. The following year the law was changed to allow the Academy Council to approve tuition above the 50%. The Academy Council has approved the costs to cities at approximately 60% the last two years. The following chart reflects the Academy general funds.



The fiscal year 2008 costs are as follows:

<u>Basic Academy Training Fees</u>	
<u>Fiscal Year 2008</u>	
<u>Full Cost per officer of Fiscal Year 2006</u>	<u>\$5,957.00 (\$11.09 per hour)</u>
50% of Costs	\$2,978.50
60% of Costs	\$3,574.20
Academy Council Approved fees for FY2008	\$3,575.00 per officer (\$6.65 per hour per officer – a real bargain even though prices have gone up)

The following reflects the tuition increases to cities and counties over the last several years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tuition Charged to Cities and Counties</u>
1998	\$1,621.00
1999	\$1,715.00
2000	\$1,775.00 (raised to \$1,795.00 in midyear)
2001	\$1,850.00
2002	\$1,975.00
2003	\$2,500.00
2004	\$2,085.00
2005	\$2,650.00
2006	\$3,210.00
2007	\$3,500.00
2008	\$3,575.00

It is the ILEA Law Enforcement Advisory Group plan for FY 2009 to request adequate funding for the Academy. The advisory group is currently looking at various plans around the country to determine a mechanism that would assure the highest level of education for our certified peace officers. The Kentucky plan is being discussed at this time in the Advisory Group.

The Academy is authorized for 30 personnel. The Academy is currently down two instructors and one support staff. The Academy when filing its budget request in October asked for one of the instructors to be approved for fiscal year 2008. This instructor would be responsible for covering some of the areas of the loss instructors as well as have expertise in computer crimes and/or Spanish for law enforcement. It was planned that the second instructor would be requested in fiscal year 2009.

Conclusions

The Academy plays an important role in education and keeping our communities safe. The Academy does this by training and certifying the best peace officers,

dispatchers, and jailers in the nation. The Academy does this by decertifying those officers that have violated the public trust of Iowa citizens. The Academy is exploring ways that research can be conducted at the Academy to improve law enforcement not only in Iowa but also across the nation.